

**Blanchland Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**held in the Village Hall**  
**on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors Mr Kennedy, Mr Bowers, Mr Graham, Mr M Forster, Clerk Mrs Ellison.

**Apologies:** Mr Patterson. Councillor Horncastle

Declarations of Interest none

**Matters Arising**

**Drain Derwent View and Roadside Verges, hedges and trees, Footpath Shildon Road:** We met with Mr Westerby (Highway Engineer) in the village. We discussed all the issues with him and he said he would do what he could when his new budget was available in April. However he would try and cut the hedges and some trees back before then. With regard to the footpath up Shildon Road we were asked to submit it for the next Transport Plan. The hedges have been cut but no trees have been removed.

**Telephone Mast:** The mast has been erected but to date the electric is not to it.

**Grant for a Computer and Printer:** The clerk was able to claim the VAT back on these items.

**Parking in The Square:** We have had a further written complaint about this. Councillor Horncastle has agreed to help with seeing how we could have some enforcement without having the high impact of notices in this unique conservation area. We also have to consider residents who have nowhere else to park but the public highway. It is hoped that we have some info from NCC for our Annual Parish Meeting in May.

**Dogs in playing field:** So far the notices have not had much impact.

**Off roaders** Off roaders some of which are not licenced are causing problems all around the area. A open meeting was held at Slaley on 13<sup>th</sup> February attended by 4 police officers on behalf of BOAT's where the problems with some off roaders was debated. Some are ignoring restrictions and even destroying signage. The public are being asked to ring 101 and report any of this behaviour and any unlicensed vehicles.

**Urgent Business**

Elections are to take place on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Councillors have been given nomination forms to fill in.

**Finances**

Interest in Jan 27p

Vat return of £89.66

Clerk's wages for the year £216, Expenses for the year £206.76

**Next meeting:** This will include the Annual Parish Meeting. 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm